



# **PUBLIC HEALTH**

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND  
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

***K-12 Environmental Health and Safety Rules  
WAC 246-366 — State Board of Health  
March 8, 2006***

# The Importance of Environmental Health and Safety in Schools

- A healthy school environment is important for learning
- Children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards than adults
- Public health measures can help protect school children

# Environmental Health and Safety Issues in Schools

- Indoor air quality
- Safe food and water
- Building design
- Safety in labs, art rooms, and shops
- Safe use, clean-up, and disposal of chemicals
- Injury prevention through design and modification
- Pest Management

# Goals for School Environmental Health and Safety Rules

- Proactively protect children's health
- Based on the best available science
- Ensure accountability between school districts, their communities and local health jurisdictions
- Support and promote current school health and safety programs that work
- Least burdensome regulatory structure
- Compatible and consistent with existing related regulations (such as building codes)
- Realistic about resource limitations of schools and local health jurisdictions

# School Rule Development Committee Membership

- Public and Private School Administrators, Directors, Maintenance & Operations Personnel and OSPI
- Students / Parents / Teachers
- Architects
- Local Health Jurisdictions and University of Washington Environmental Health

# School Rule Development Committee Process

- Full Group Meetings
  - Initial Issue Review
  - Workgroup Proposals Reviewed — 5 meetings
- Technical Area Workgroups:
  - Indoor Air Quality — 5 meetings
  - Drinking Water Quality — 4 meetings
  - Safety — 5 meetings

# School Rule Development Committee Outcomes

- SRDC reviewed 101 workgroup proposals
  - combined or amended proposals, ending with 48
- SRDC supported process
  - 89% Agreed that process addressed most important issues
  - 83% Agreed process was open and fair to all participants
  - 71% Generally satisfied with the process

# Draft Rule Layout

- I. School Facility Development
- II. School Facility Operations
- III. Environmental Health and Safety Management



# I. School Facility Development

## Site Review and Approval

- Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment prior to school construction using national standards
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - American National Standards Institute



# I. School Facility Development (Continued)

## Design and Plan Review

- Encourages early communication with Local Health Jurisdiction to address Environmental Health and Safety Issues
- Requires design & material selection to address:
  - Indoor Air Quality
  - Heating and ventilation
  - Other design items



# I. School Facility Development (Continued)

## Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

- Specifically identifies sources of IAQ problems:
  - Interior surfaces of ducts
  - Dust control
  - Re-intake of exhausted pollutants and moisture
  - Control of moisture leading to mold



# I. School Facility Development (Continued)

## Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC)

- HVAC design and operation
- Minimum temperatures
- Unique ventilation needs



# I. School Facility Development (Continued)

## Other Design Items

- Pest Management
  - Design and select materials to prevent pest-related problems
- Fall Hazards
  - Eliminate by design
  - Provide protection where hazards exist



## II. School Facility Operations

### Mold — Prevention and Response

- Develop and implement prevention and response protocols
- Use nationally accepted remediation standards
- Monitor facilities for water intrusion and moisture retention
- Take corrective action



## II. School Facility Operations (Continued)

### Lead in Drinking Water

- Periodically sample for lead
- Follow EPA recommendations for lead reduction
- Local school boards chose reduction action

## II. School Facility Operations (Continued)

### Chemical Use, Storage, Clean-up and Disposal

- Hazardous chemicals:
  - Properly labeled
  - Used only by trained staff
  - Stored and disposed appropriately





## II. School Facility Operations (Continued)

### Playground Safety

- New, retrofitted and repaired play-grounds must meet national standards
- Used, “homemade” or “donated” play equipment must be reviewed and approved



## II. School Facility Operations (Continued)

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- Develop and implement written IPM plans that
  - Maximize prevention
  - Use least-hazardous control methods
  - Monitor for pests and target pest control measures



# III. Environmental Health and Safety Management

## Health and Safety Risks

- Assess and address health and safety risks
- Establish safety procedures
- Provide hazard training and personal protective equipment where needed



## III. Environmental Health and Safety Management (Continued)

### Communication

- Notify parents, students and teachers regarding various conditions relating to:
  - Water Quality
  - Indoor Air Quality
  - Other environmental health and safety issues



## III. Environmental Health and Safety Management (Continued)

### Rule Implementation and Review

- Annual Environmental Health and Safety inspections of school facilities
- Rule is evaluated within 5 years



# SRDC Proposal Outcomes

## Proposals Presented in Draft Rule

- Reflect strong support for placing in rule
  - Exception: Building Commissioning
- Remaining Proposals to be Addressed in Guidance

# Challenges to Success

- Severely limited resources
  - School districts
  - Local Health Jurisdictions
  - DOH
- Competing priorities for existing resources limit the effectiveness of Environmental Health and Safety efforts

# Remaining Events

ACTIVITY	EXPECTED TIMELINE
<b><i>Informal DRAFT</i></b> proposed rule available for review and comment	<b>March 2006</b>
DOH conducts public workshops and receives comments on <b><i>Informal DRAFT</i></b>	<b>March 2006</b>
DOH briefs SBOH on progress and initial response to <b><i>Informal DRAFT</i></b>	<b>March 8, 2006</b>
DOH reviews public response to <b><i>Informal DRAFT</i></b> and proposes changes leading to <b><i>Final DRAFT</i></b>	<b>March — April 2006</b>
DOH briefs SBOH on public response to <b><i>Informal DRAFT</i></b> and proposed changes leading to <b><i>Final DRAFT</i></b>	<b>May 10, 2006</b>
<b><i>Final DRAFT</i></b> proposed rule and economic analysis available for review and comment	<b>June 2006</b>
SBOH Public Rule Adoption Hearing on <b><i>Final DRAFT</i></b>	<b>July 12, 2006</b>



# Questions?

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